

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method for selecting a gateway proximal to a network access point  
2 that satisfies a predefined call service on a hybrid network including a  
3 directory service to route a call, comprising the steps of:  
4 (a) transmitting a query including a type of call service to the directory  
5 service to obtain a plurality of gateways that match the predefined call  
6 service criteria;  
7 (b) querying each of the plurality of gateways to determine a network  
8 topology to service the call;  
9 (c) ranking the plurality of gateways based on the network topology and  
10 the call service criteria; and  
11 (d) utilizing the selected gateway to service the call.  
12  
2 2. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the topology of the hybrid  
network is analyzed utilizing an internet protocol ping.  
3  
1 3. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the topology of the hybrid  
2 network is analyzed utilizing an internet protocol trace route.  
3  
1 4. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the topology of the hybrid  
2 network is analyzed utilizing an internet protocol packet latency.  
3  
1 5. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the topology of the hybrid  
2 network is analyzed utilizing a packet echo.

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1 6. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the topology of the hybrid  
2 network is analyzed utilizing an internet protocol ping.

1 7. A hybrid network, which comprises:

2 (a) a switched communication network;

3 (b) a packet transmission network coupled to the switched  
4 communications network;

5 (c) a plurality of gateways between the switched communication network  
6 and the packet network

7 (d) a call router coupled to the switched communications network and the  
8 packet transmission with logic that transmits a query including a type  
9 of call service to the directory service to obtain a plurality of gateways  
10 that match the predefined call service criteria; querying each of the  
11 plurality of gateways to determine a network topology to service the  
12 call; ranking the plurality of gateways based on the network topology  
13 and the call service criteria; and utilizing the selected gateway to  
14 service the call.

1 8. The hybrid network as recited in claim 7, wherein the topology of the  
2 hybrid network is analyzed utilizing an internet protocol ping.

1 9. The hybrid network as recited in claim 7, wherein the topology of the  
2 hybrid network is analyzed utilizing an internet protocol trace route.

1 10. The hybrid network as recited in claim 7, wherein the topology of the  
2 hybrid network is analyzed utilizing an internet protocol packet  
3 latency.

1 11. The hybrid network as recited in claim 7, wherein the topology of the  
2 hybrid network is analyzed utilizing a packet echo.

1 12. The hybrid network as recited in claim 7, wherein the topology of the  
2 hybrid network is analyzed utilizing an internet protocol ping.

1 13. A computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium for  
2 directing calls and providing services in a hybrid telecommunications  
3 system including a switched communications network and a packet  
4 transmission network, which comprises:

- 5 (a) first software that selects a gateway proximal to a network access  
6 point that satisfies a predefined call service on a hybrid network  
7 including a directory service to route a call, comprising the steps of:  
8 (b) second software that transmits a query including a type of call service  
9 to the directory service to obtain a plurality of gateways that match  
10 the predefined call service criteria;  
11 (c) third software that queries each of the plurality of gateways to  
12 determine a network topology to service the call;  
13 (d) fourth software that ranks the plurality of gateways based on the  
14 network topology and the call service criteria; and  
15 (e) fifth software that utilizes the selected gateway to service the call.

1 14. The computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium for  
2 directing calls and providing services in a hybrid telecommunications  
3 system including a switched communications network and a packet  
4 transmission network as recited in claim 13, wherein the topology of  
5 the hybrid network is analyzed utilizing an internet protocol ping.

1 15. The computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium for  
2 directing calls and providing services in a hybrid telecommunications  
3 system including a switched communications network and a packet  
4 transmission network as recited in claim 13, wherein the topology of  
5 the hybrid network is analyzed utilizing an internet protocol trace  
6 route.

1 16. The computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium for  
2 directing calls and providing services in a hybrid telecommunications  
3 system including a switched communications network and a packet  
4 transmission network as recited in claim 13, wherein the topology of  
5 the hybrid network is analyzed utilizing an internet protocol packet  
6 latency.

1 17. The computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium for  
2 directing calls and providing services in a hybrid telecommunications  
3 system including a switched communications network and a packet  
4 transmission network as recited in claim 13, wherein the topology of  
5 the hybrid network is analyzed utilizing a packet echo.

1 18. The computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium for  
2 directing calls and providing services in a hybrid telecommunications  
3 system including a switched communications network and a packet  
4 transmission network as recited in claim 13, wherein the topology of  
5 the hybrid network is analyzed utilizing an internet protocol ping.

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